

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6, 7, and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,659,748 by Kennedy (hereinafter "Kennedy") in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,938,765 by Dove (hereinafter "Dove"). Claims 2-5 and 19-22 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8-12 have been restricted into Group II claims. The title has been objected to.

Claims 1, 3-7, 13, 18, and 20-22 have been amended. Claims 8-12 have been canceled without prejudice to put the application into a condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been rewritten into independent form as amended claim 1. As acknowledge in the Office Action, none of the above references, individually or in combination, discloses the limitations in claim 1, as amended. Claim 1, as amended, states:

1. A method, comprising:
 - determining a bootstrap processor from a plurality of operable processors in a fault tolerant multiprocessor system irrespective of an initialization time of a particular operable processor;
 - asserting a first signal;
 - asserting a second signal; and
 - ensuring that both the first signal and the second signal are asserted prior to allowing the plurality of operable processors to enter a bootstrap processor arbitration process.

(emphasis added)

Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the above rejections for the reasons stated above.

Given that claims 3-7 depend on and include the limitations of claim 1, claims 3-7 are also patentable over the above rejections.

Claim 19 has been rewritten into independent form as amended claim 18. As acknowledge in the Office Action, none of the above references, individually or in combination, discloses the limitations in claim 18, as amended. Therefore, claim 18, as amended, is patentable over the above rejections for the reasons stated above.

Given that claims 20-22 depend on and include the limitations of claim 18, claims 20-22 are also patentable over the above rejections.

Applicant respectfully assert that claim 13 as amended is patentable over the above rejections. Claim 13, as amended, states:

13. A computing system, comprising:
 - a plurality of operable processors;
 - a system bus; and
 - an arbitration protocol to determine a bootstrap processor from the plurality of operable processors in a fault tolerant multiprocessor system irrespective of an initialization time of a particular operable processor;
 - and
 - logic to ensure that both a first signal and a second signal are asserted prior to allowing the plurality of operable processors to enter a bootstrap processor arbitration process.

(emphasis added)

Neither Dove nor Kennedy, individually or in combination, teaches or suggests logic to ensure that both a first signal and a second signal are asserted prior to allowing the plurality of operable processors to enter a bootstrap processor arbitration process.

Therefore, claim 13, as amended, is patentable over the above rejections for the reasons stated above.

Given that claims 14-18 depend on and include the limitations of claim 13, claims 14-18 are also patentable over the above rejections.

The Title has been amended to "A Method And System To Determine The Bootstrap Processor from a plurality of operable processors." The claims are directed to determining a Bootstrap Processor from a plurality of operable processors.

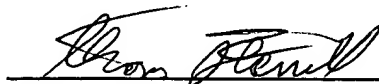
Conclusion

Applicants elect to prosecute Group I claims, claims 1-7 and 13-22, with traverse. Applicants withdraw Group II claims, claims 8-12 without prejudice. Claims 8-12 have been canceled without prejudice to put the application into a condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: _____

5-6-04



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